

Marcia Gates Woods  
5138 Cribari Place  
San Jose, CA 95135  
415-990-5185

May 9, 2016

Loomis Town Council  
Town of Loomis  
3665 Taylor Road  
Loomis, CA 95650

RE: Proposed Loomis Library Closure  
Gates Family Original Intent

Dear Mayor Baker and Members of the Council:

My name is Marcia Gates Woods, and I am the sole surviving member of the Gates family (Earl Gates, Sr., died 1981, Earl Gates, Jr., died 1998, and Francis Gates, died 2009. We sold/donated the parcel in Loomis and adjoining road in 1977 to Placer County for the purpose of a Loomis Library. Our family, who owned 50 acres of adjoining land, had already donated land (directly in front of the proposed Library site on Horseshoe Bar Road) after World War II for the Veterans Memorial Hall which has been fully utilized over the years by many citizens for civic, social, and community functions. My brother Francis served in the Army, and my brother Earl, Jr., served in the Navy, and providing land for the Memorial Hall was very important to my parents Earl, Sr., and Adele Gates.

Thus, when Placer County approached us about building a library in Loomis, it seemed like an excellent idea. Our Mother, Adele, who loved books, had passed away in 1968, and Earl, Jr., Francis, and I owned the property with our Dad, Earl, Sr. He was the first principal at Loomis Elementary School from 1924—1945, starting in a one-room schoolhouse, and then became principal at Vernon Street Elementary School in Roseville from 1945—1969 when he retired. In 1976 when Placer County was negotiating with us, my brother Francis was Head Law Librarian at Columbia University in NY, and President of the American Association of Law Libraries, and I was Head Law Librarian at American Telephone and Telegraph Co. in NY with 40,000 volumes and services to all the "Baby Bells" in the U.S. I relay this short history to EMPHASIZE how important education and libraries were to our family, and how we decided to go ahead with such a significant alteration to our property.

Additionally, I grew up in Loomis, attended and graduated from Loomis Grammar School, Del Oro High School,, Sierra Jr. College, and received my BA from San Francisco State and my Master of Library Science Degree from UC Berkeley. I worked at UC Davis Law Library as head of Circulation Reference for 4 years before working at AT&T. As a child and young adult in Loomis, I remember clearly walking to the Loomis Library in a space on Main Street. I was a regular and appreciative patron, and I admired that Librarian so much that I aspired to be one also. The Loomis Library opened a whole new world beyond Loomis to me.

So, we as a family were happy to make a contribution to the reality of a permanent library for Loomis. We owned the 50 (at that time) adjacent acres in the middle of Loomis which we all hoped would someday be developed, and it seemed, along with the already existing Memorial Hall like an ideal location for a library. We contributed \$9,550 from the sales price and access to the property for a road (Library Lane), parking lot, and infrastructure costs. We received \$4,956.80 total from the sale.

I learned last month, much to my distress, that Placer County is planning to close the Loomis Library perhaps as early as June 30, 2016. I have also learned that this was proposed as early as February 2015, and there has already been a one year extension to June this year. In going back and looking at the original Grant Deed and closing documents, it is very clear that our intent in transferring this property to the County was for a LIBRARY SITE. The escrow instructions in 1977, attached to the sale, Exhibit "A" specified "Library Site", and Exhibit "C" Special Conditions, #8 "The purpose of this purchase is to construct a County Branch Library with related parking for both the Library and Justice Court, utility and roadway improvements."

We believed we were contributing to the welfare, educational resources, and access to a library for future generations in Loomis. We sold part of the 50 acres for Olive Gardens and Village Gardens over the ensuing years. My father died in 1981, and we sold the remaining 32 acres in 2004. There is currently a plan—The Villages—awaiting EIR approval which would provide 400 houses with perhaps 1,000 residents right there next to the Library in the middle of Loomis. This along with Loomis' current population of 6500 would make this more than just a "small-town" clientele to be served by a Library. My father, Earl Gates, Sr., in particular retained this 50 acre parcel intact for years to provide for future development in Loomis, and in 1977 we would never have provided access into the property via road, etc., unless we thought it was for a very good cause, i.e. a Library.

I am told Loomis' only option to still have a functioning Library is to withdraw from the County system, start over, probably lease space, come up with a collection of books, equipment, furniture, etc, and establish a Loomis City Library. As someone who has managed existing collections, and set up new libraries, I KNOW how much time, work, and expenditure that requires. I am appalled at the lack of foresight and the disregard for community welfare and education this proposed closure exhibits on the part of Placer County.

I am told that Loomis residents (especially children) are being told they can just drive to Rocklin Library or use current school libraries (which since September 11, 2001, wisely limit public access). That simply disregards totally current and future needs in Loomis for an adequate and fully functioning library. With many families where both parents are working, and not all homes having computers, children often have to rely on libraries even to do their homework. I am told this is the case in Loomis. Children cannot drive to Rocklin for access to a library! I am sure with increased traffic and congestion throughout all of California now, it is probably more than just a five minute drive.

Whenever I have been in Loomis, the Library is a hub of activity and along with the Memorial Hall, a reasonable and consistent magnet for the whole Loomis area. The Library building is both an attractive and very useable facility. I am told that the Friends of the Library contributed substantially to an addition to the building about 5 years ago. I know my brother Francis donated a book truck with my Mother's name (Adele Lavallee Gates) when the Library was first opened. I guess the County would even retain control over that if this closure goes through.

I strongly urge you to do whatever it takes to keep the Loomis Library open, and to stop Placer County from closing this valuable resource in Loomis. I am VERY disappointed that the Gates Family original intent to benefit Loomis is being ignored, and that Loomis will have to start all over to have any kind of Library at all.

Very truly yours,



Marcia Gates Woods

cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors

Mary George, Placer County Director of Library Services

Jean Wilson, Loomis Friends of the Library